

## **BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD – ANNUAL REPORT – 2004-2005**

Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad (BVRS), a highly trained *volunteer* organization, provides a vital service to the citizens of the Town of Blacksburg and surrounding Montgomery County. Our volunteers responded to 2,262 emergency calls in 2004/2005. 1,433 of the calls were within the Town of Blacksburg, 779 were in the area of Montgomery County served by the Squad, 11 were at Virginia Tech and 7 were mutual aid responses. Additionally, the squad provided standby medical services for over 50 sporting and community events and has conducted demonstrations and educational sessions at area schools and for other groups of children. We have also welcomed numerous groups for tours and demonstrations of our station and equipment. **26,402 volunteer hours were expended** on calls in 2004/2005 and member training required another **6,562** of volunteer hours. The Squad maintains a membership of 88 + *highly trained volunteers*. Training levels are mandated by the State and are a never ending and integral part of emergency care.

We are working toward our goal of providing 24/7 in house call coverage. Our current roster holds over 40 EMT Basics, 4 Shock Trauma / Enhanced, 15 Cardiac Tech / Intermediate and 8 Paramedic providers, all of which are volunteers.

The Squad maintains in service, 6 Advanced Life Support ambulances (4 funded by Town of Blacksburg and 2 purchased by Montgomery County), 2 Rescue/Crash trucks (1 heavy duty owned by Town of Blacksburg and 1 medium duty owned by Montgomery County), 2 command vehicles, 3 first response units, and 1 utility vehicle. The service provided by Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad is often recognized and commended by the community that we serve and our members are very appreciative of the great support we receive from the Town of Blacksburg and our fellow citizens.

### **Accomplishments for 2004/2005**

#### **Facilities**

- Met with the town to identify properties available on which to build a new station.
- At the present the department has many emergency vehicles housed in an uncovered area. The current facility is not only too small to house equipment but is in disrepair and unable to meet the technological and educational needs of the department.
- Identified and assessed structural problems of existing building with independent engineering firm.
- Began renovations to lounge.
- Future CIP equipment such as large crash truck will not fit in existing building.
- Identified specific needs for training and office space.

#### **Administrative**

- Working on revision of current By-Laws and Standard Operating Guidelines to be completed in Spring 2006.
- Volunteers have assumed responsibility for all calls with an average reaction time of less than 2 minutes.
- Working to establish more accurate budgeting practices.
- BVRS for the first time hosted 2 successful Blood Drives for the American Red Cross

### Technology

- Members created a new Rescue Squad website.
- Instituted Rip & Run which provides faster communication for dispatched calls in a hard copy form.
- Instituted Time Clock Software which provides real time documentation of actual volunteers hours provided.
- Acquired and implemented Emergency Reporting software which provides better record keeping for department.
- Received computer grant funding for the purchase of 4 toughbooks computers for the ambulances to further enhance GIS tracking and record keeping and reduce paperwork.

### Equipment

- Updated all extrication equipment on crash trucks.
- Replaced one ALS ambulance.
- Purchased Mini Van to transport members to classes.
- Purchased new Command Vehicle for Chief.

### Training

- Providers continue to advance in their training to ensure continuity in the level of service we provide the community.
  - BVRS continues to develop its Heavy Tactical Rescue team in conjunction with Blacksburg Fire and Police personnel. This team specializes in confined space, trench, high angle and heavy vehicle extrication. This team trains monthly to ensure its effectiveness.
- BVRS continues to foster members to become instructors of various classes as they advance in their training. This is a great asset to not only the Squad but to the community.

## BVRS Call Volume TOB, County, and Mutual Aid

